

MARVEL
COMICS
FEBRUARY
ALL NEW
X-MEN
SPECIAL
EVENT



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BY THE
COMICS
CODE
AUTHORITY

ASKANI'SON

THE
FUTURISTIC
ISSUE



THE FUTURE HISTORY OF THE
X-MEN CONTINUES!

They say the last thing
you see before you die is a
blinding flash of light.

BUT HEY, YOU'RE A MERCENARY. YOU'RE USED TO THIS STUFF.

You've joined Da Wardenz. Big-time, highly trained armed forces specialists saving the world from injustice, corruption and global terrorism with the help of one very bad boy: a fully armored, sophisticated M-13 Predator Battletank. Sure, war is hell. But at least your hip-hop soundtrack of San Francisco 49er football star and rapper William

SHELLSHOCK

kickin' to the awesome Francisco 49er football "Bar None" Floyd.



Command the deadly M-13 Predator Battletank across 3D mapped and textured terrains in real-time, first-person.



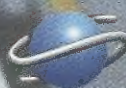
25 terrifying, covert worldwide missions can get down and dirty. Thank God you've got choppers and bombers.



2 player head-to-head play or multiplayer network in the PC version—up to 8 players wage war.



U.S. GOLD



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IT WOULD BE SOME
TWO THOUSAND
YEARS HENCE.

AN EVIL HAD
CHOKED
THE LAND —

— THE TYRANT
WHO HELD ALL
BENEATH HIM IN
MURDEROUS
CONTEMPT HAD
FALLEN.

IT WAS THE END OF
THE REIGN OF EN
SABAH NUR, THE
SELF-PROCLAIMED
HIGH LORD.

THE END OF

APOCALYPSE!

his
name, we
are told, was
simply...
xavier.

it can
be said that
he was the
father of the
askani.





it is said he
was the wisest. a
man whose
teachings brought
about the legendary
first ones...

...the
followers who
fought the evil
that infected
their time.

and
as the years
flowed by, others
came to take the
first ones' place...

...as
dark times
overtook all and
humanity's diverse
branches suffered
much.

but
among them
were those who
remembered xavier
and his band that
fought the good
fight through
the dark, dusty
years.

and they, who walked the path that would someday lead to the house of askani.

"askani" which means "outsider" --

-- SWORN TO protect a world which greeted them with hate and fear.

CAN YOU BELIEVE THIS PIPE, TETHERBLOOD?

KEEP IT DOWN, DAYSPRING.

YOU'RE BEING DISRESPECTFUL --

-- AGAIN!

THE YEARS THAT HAVE FOLLOWED THE FALL OF APOCALYPSE HAVE NOT BEEN KIND.

THE EARLY PROMISE OF FREEDOM FADED IN THE FACE OF BITTER CIVIL WARS. AND THOSE WHO SURVIVED THE FALL OFTEN WISHED THEY HAD NOT.

FOR THEIR LOT WAS HARD AND THEIR MEMORIES SHORT.

ONLY BY GATHERING FOR THESE WEEKLY SERVICES, DID THEY REKINDLE THE HISTORIES OF THOSE WHO HAD PARTAKEN IN THE EPIC WAR.

WOVEN BY CONJURERS OF BOTH FACT AND FICTION --

-- WOMEN AND MEN SUCH AS THE ELDERLY FOSSIL.

THE SHADOW LENGTHENS

STAN LEE PRESENTS

THE CONTINUING TALE OF THE EARLY YEARS OF THE MAN CALLED

SCOTT LOBBELL STORY GENE HA PENCILS
JEFF LOEB DIALOGUE ANDREW PEPOY INKS

KEVIN MAIBELIS RICHARD STARKINGS BOB
SOMERS LUES AND COMICRAFT HARRAS
COLORS SEPARATIONS LETTERING EDITOR

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behold
"the bright
lady" --

-- who
was delivered to
us from what could
only be heaven
itself --

-- to
face apocalypse
as the harbinger of
his destruction!

she
who brought
into our children's
prayers a new
message:

"thanks
and
please."

"please
for tomorrow" --
acknowledging that
for all the efforts of
apocalypse and
his ilk --

"thanks
for today" --
since during the years of
apocalypse, none of
us -- neither human
nor mutant --
knew if we would
survive.

-- it
could not
extinguish the
one tie that binds
us all:

hope.

IT IS NOT THE TERRIBLE
VISAGE OF THEIR CRUEL
OPPRESSOR THAT ALL
BUT SILENCES
THE CROWD.

BUT RATHER, THE VERY IMAGE
OF SHE WHO WAS MOST HOLY...
"THE MOTHER ASKANI" --

... THE LEADER WHO
ALONE FOUGHT THE EVIL
THAT WAS APOCALYPSE
AND GAVE HER LIFE IN
THAT LONG
STRUGGLE.

ALL SAVE ONE --
WHO FINDS THE
IMAGE --

-- DISTURBINGLY
FAMILIAR.

YOU WANT TO SEE
DISRESPECTFUL,
"T" P?

Um...
NO.

SOME WOULD SAY IT WAS PURE
ARROGANCE WHICH BRINGS
NATHAN CHRISTOPHER DAYSRING
TO HIS FEET.

THEY WOULD
BE WRONG.

FOR OF ALL THOSE
AMONG HIM, HE ALONE
WAS THERE WHEN
APOCALYPSE
WAS DESTROYED.

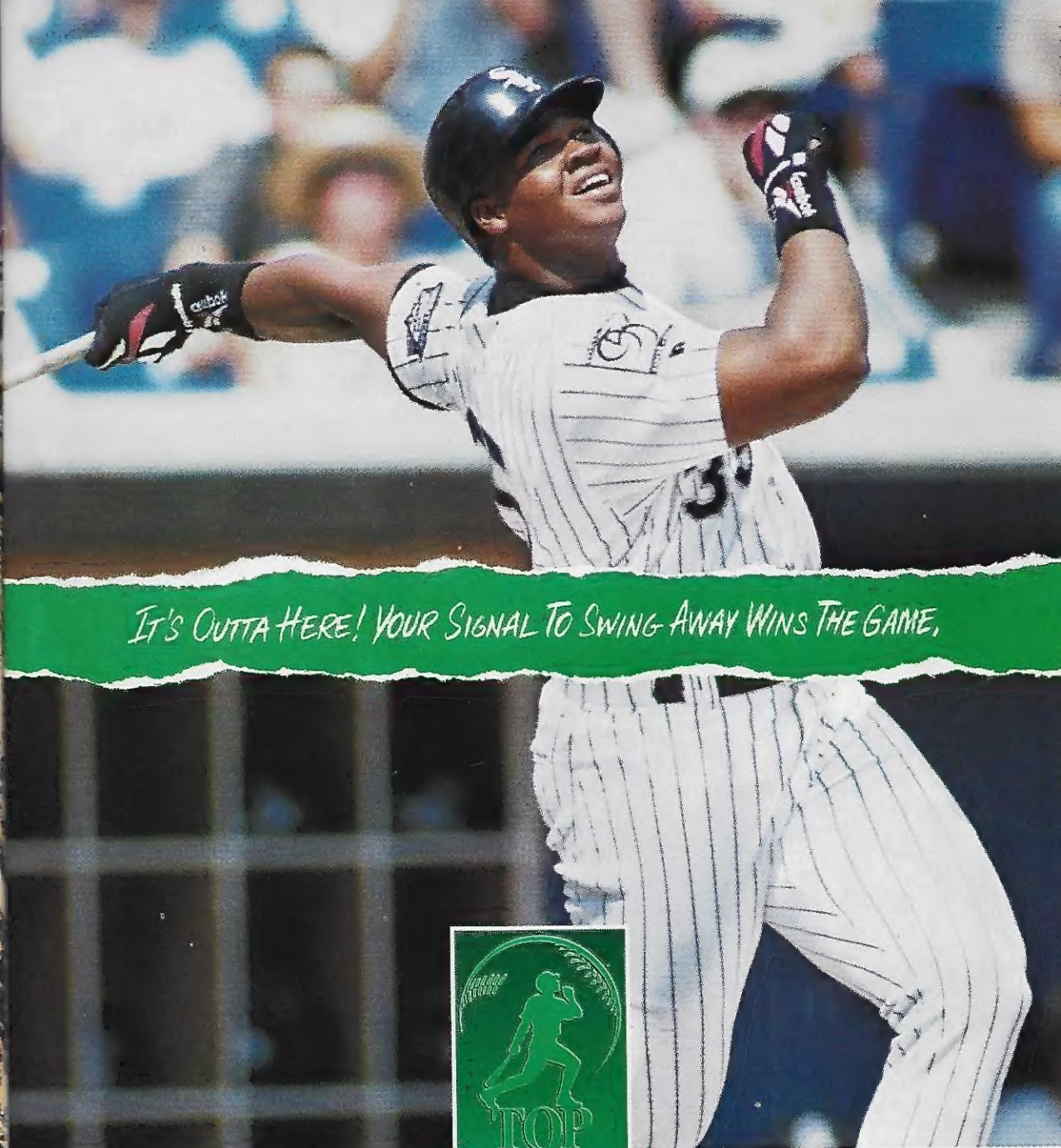
AS A MERE CHILD, HE
STOOD SIDE-BY-SIDE
WITH HIS ADOPTED
PARENTS --

-- THE MYSTERIOUS
BEINGS WHO SIMPLY
CALLED THEMSELVES
"REDD" AND "SLYM"...

AND WHEN THE BATTLE HAD ENDED, THEY
VANISHED, RETURNING TO WHATEVER FAR
PLACE THEY CAME FROM,
LEAVING THE BOY TO
FIND HIS OWN WAY.

ABANDONED BY ALL WHO
LOVED HIM, DAYSRING
VIEWS THE WORLD...
DIFFERENTLY...

FOR THE FULL STORY, SEE THE CLASSIC
CYCLOPS AND PHOENIX TRADE PAPERBACK -- Prior Bob.



IT'S OUTTA HERE! YOUR SIGNAL TO SWING AWAY WINS THE GAME.



IS HERE.

Congratulations. You called your first play as a major league manager. And you did it while playing *Top of the Order*, the awesome new interactive card game from Donruss. To win, you need brains. You need guts. You need some luck. Because you call the shots, just like a big league skipper.



Play *Top of the Order* and you can draft an MLB® team from an 80-card starter deck of authentic game photos.

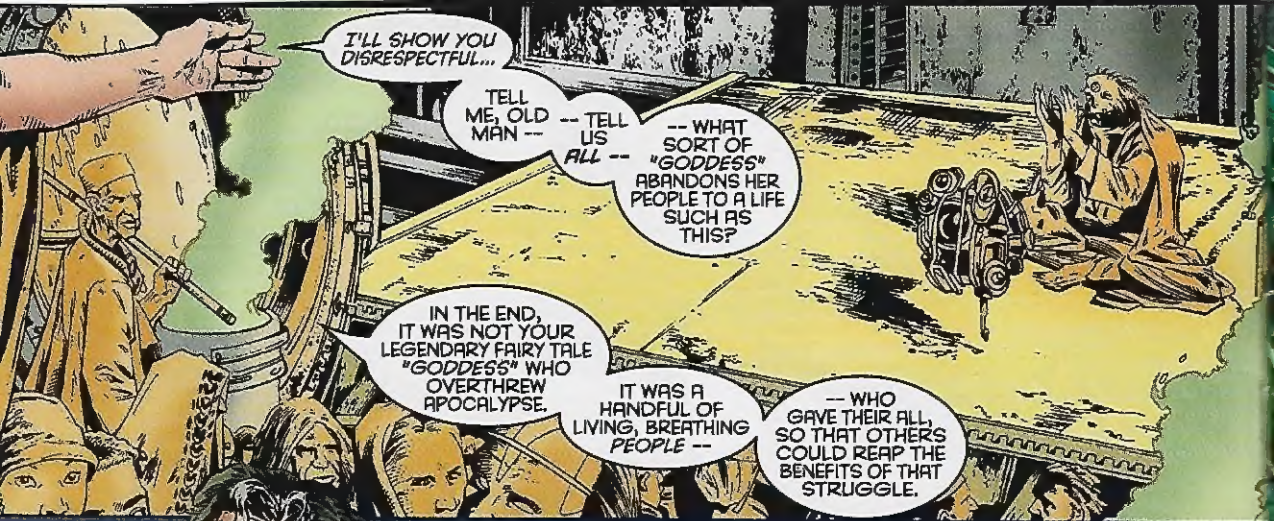
You can build a dream team with booster packs, up to 360 cards in all. You can challenge your friends. *Top of the Order*. Get off your butt. Get to the store. Get it today.



DONRUSS
INC.



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I'LL SHOW YOU DISRESPECTFUL!!!

TELL ME, OLD MAN --

-- TELL US ALL --

-- WHAT SORT OF "GODDESS" ABANDONS HER PEOPLE TO A LIFE SUCH AS THIS?

IN THE END, IT WAS NOT YOUR LEGENDARY FAIRY TALE "GODDESS" WHO OVERTHREW APOCALYPSE.

IT WAS A HANDFUL OF LIVING, BREATHING PEOPLE --

-- WHO GAVE THEIR ALL, SO THAT OTHERS COULD REAP THE BENEFITS OF THAT STRUGGLE.



BUT, LOOK AT US! ANOTHER SHADOW LOOMS OVER THE WORLD --

-- ONE WHICH MAY PROVE GREATER THAN APOCALYPSE HIMSELF!

AND HOW DO WE MEET THE CHALLENGE?

BY HOLDING SERVICES AT NIGHT AND TURNING OVER ALL OUR FOOD AND EARNINGS TO SUPPORT THE CANAANITES BY DAY?

HERE WE GO AGAIN..!

not every battle needs to be fought by the blade of a sword or barrel of a gun --

-- young dayspring.

DO NOT PATRONIZE ME, FOSSIL.

I WAS --

ANEECAW!

DAYSRING!

AND IN THE CROWD, THEY WONDER --

-- WAS IT THE GODS THEMSELVES WHO STRUCK DOWN THIS YOUNG MAN FOR HIS HERESY...?

... OR WAS IT THE
GOVERNMENT?

THAT CONCLUDES
YOUR SERVICES FOR
THE EVENING, GOOD
PEOPLE.

GO
TO YOUR
HOMES, SECURE
IN THE KNOWLEDGE
THE CANAANITES
HONOR AND
RESPECT ALL
RELIGIONS.

who --?

IT
IS 'STRATOR
UMBRIDGE,
SIR. LET'S
GO!

IN THE YEARS THAT
FOLLOWED, WITHOUT
APOCALYPSE'S DOG
SOLDIERS TO MAINTAIN
ORDER --

-- A NEW
GROUP AROSE
"FOR THE BEST
INTEREST OF
THE PEOPLE".

TAKING THEIR NAME
FOR THE CITY WHERE
THE REVOLUTION
WAS BORN --
NEW CANAAN --

-- THE CANAANITES
NOW ACT AS THE
OFFICIAL GUARDIANS
OF THE POPULACE;
PROMOTING
PEACE, HARMONY
AND... PROFIT.

YOU'VE PICKED THE
ABSOLUTE WORST
TIME TO SPELL
OUT ON ME.

WHAT'S
THE DEAL,
"D"?

I...
DON'T
KNOW... LIKE
MY GUTS' ON
FIRE.

HAPPENED
BEFORE...
GETTING WORSE...

LET'S
JUST GET
OUT OF HERE
BEFORE --

-- "IT IS
TOO
LATE?"

YOU WERE
EMBARKING ON
AN INTERESTING
DISCOURSE,
YOUNG
MAN.

THE
ADMINISTRATION
ENCOURAGES FREE
THINKING AND WOULD
LIKE TO HEAR MORE.

"Y'KNOW,
DAYS'PRING,
THE NEXT TIME I SAY
"LET'S GO TO THE
SOUTHERN
COAST..."

... LET'S
GO TO THE
SOUTHERN
COAST!

MALIBU BULLPEN

december

PHOENIX Gets Biblical

Genesis & Revelations

Happy holidays! If you're looking for your favorite X-Men characters this month—look no further than the Ultraverse!

Fans of the Marvel Universe and the Ultraverse will discover their favorites in two spectacular books that go on sale this month:

titles last month. And now it concludes in two 48-page books this month: **The Phoenix Resurrection: Genesis** and **The Phoenix Resurrection: Revelations**. Ian Edginton is the writer for both **Genesis** and **Revelations**. Art for the two-part event will be by some of the industry's best and brightest: Bryan Hitch (*X-Men Alpha*), Mark Pacella (*X-Force*), Randy Green (*Cable*), John Royle (*Wolverine*), Kevin West (*Prime*), Rob Haynes (*Cable*), Darick Robertson (*Wolverine*), Art Thibert (*Cable*) and Greg Luzniak (*Venom*).

What price must the Ultraverse pay to ensure the survival of its universe—and who will survive, or be created, when the smoke clears? We can't answer that question just yet. But we can tell you that the amazing event will have profound effects on both Marvel and Malibu continuity!

You can bet there will be some



The Phoenix Resurrection: Genesis and The Phoenix Resurrection: Revelations.

Witness the clash of the clans as Wolverine, Jubilee, Beast, Banshee, Storm and Bishop duke it out with Prime, Hardcase, Prototype and Ghoul!

It begins with a new threat rising in the Ultraverse—a force so powerful, it will take mutant X-Men and ultra heroes from two universes to save the Ultraverse.

You guessed it! The Phoenix rises once again—and whether it will be for good or evil can only be determined by the one chosen to become the next Phoenix!

It's the ultimate X-Men/Ultraverse and Marvel/Malibu event of the year and a great way to round out 1995 for everyone. (And, heck, it's not a bad gift to give to all your friends, either!)

The cross-company saga began in "The Phoenix Resurrection: Red Shift," the 7-part flip-book story that ran in all seven Ultraverse



surprise character changes. The editorial gang is promising the introduction of at least one brand-new character for 1996! We think you'll be very interested to see who it is.

Happy holidays, indeed!

VENOM, VENOM EVERYWHERE!

And speaking of events, Venom, one of your favorites from the Spider-Man titles, is welcoming a new guest into the Marvel Universe: Rune! It's the Lethal Protector Vs. The Prince Of Void.

Everyone knows that Rune has been trapped in Marvel's Negative

Zone for the past few months. The "Zone" finally spits him out into the Marvel Universe and right in Venom's backyard! You read *Rune Vs. Silver Surfer*. You loved *UltraForce Vs. Avengers*. But believe me, they're nothin' compared to *Rune Vs. Venom* #1!

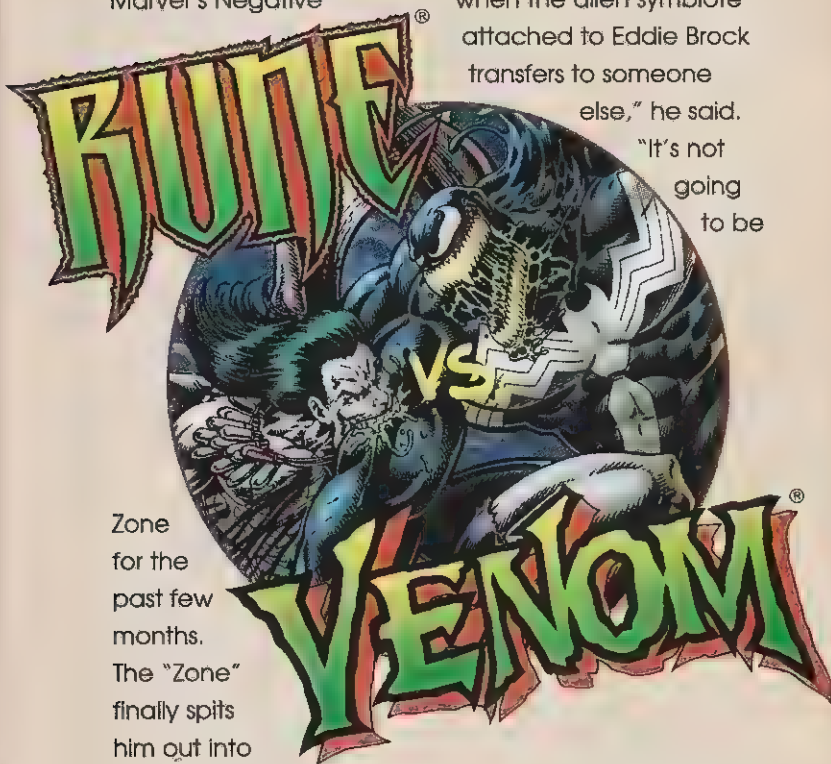
Writer Chris Ulm returns

to the character he co-created with artist Barry Windsor-Smith in the upcoming one-shot special *Rune Vs. Venom* #1 from the Ultraverse in December. Ulm is promising that you will not be disappointed. "Fans are going to want to see what happens when the alien symbiote attached to Eddie Brock transfers to someone else," he said.

"It's not going to be

pretty, but it will make for compelling reading."

And look for a dramatic change in Rune—everything from his powers to his costume! 'Nuff said!



UltraList:

RUNE VS. VENOM #1:

48 pages of destruction and terror, and neither Rune nor Venom will be the same when they step out of the ring!
ON SALE DEC. 12 ~~2.99~~ \$3.95

THE PHOENIX™ RESURRECTION—GENESIS:

• **Featuring The X-Men!**
The biggest crossover event of the year! When Phoenix returns to threaten the Marvel and Ultraverse universes, it's ultras and X-Men to the rescue!
ON SALE DEC. 12 ~~2.99~~ \$3.95

THE PHOENIX™ RESURRECTION—REVELATIONS:

• **Featuring The X-Men!**
• **First appearance of Foxtire!**
Casualties pile up as the ultras and X-Men struggle to defeat Phoenix. The events in this book lead to major changes in the Marvel and Ultraverse universes!
ON SALE DEC. 26 ~~2.99~~ \$3.95

PRIME #3:

The Ultraverse gets rocked with the ultimate ultra battle: Prime vs. Prime!
ON SALE DEC. 5 ~~2.99~~ \$1.50

THE NIGHT MAN #3:

• **The return of Lord Pumpkin and Mangle!**
The Night Man's search for a cure for his curse leads him to Lord Pumpkin!
ON SALE DEC. 12 ~~2.99~~ \$1.50

SIREN #3:

Siren struggles to escape the Marvel Universe. Will it be her home forever?
ON SALE DEC. 12 ~~2.99~~ \$1.50

THE ALL NEW EXILES #3:

• **Including "Hellblade" serial in 8-page backup**
Juggernaut seeks revenge on Shuriken, and Hellblade must decide whether to join the Exiles, or destroy them!
ON SALE DEC. 19 ~~2.99~~ \$1.50

MANTRA #3:

• **Necromantra's back!**
Bad girl Necromantra is out to teach the new and innocent Mantra a few lessons.
ON SALE DEC. 19 ~~2.99~~ \$1.50

RUNE #3:

• **Guest-starring Warlock!**
After some serious soul-searching, Warlock decides it's time to take on Gemini!
ON SALE DEC. 26 ~~2.99~~ \$1.50

ULTRAFORCE #3:

• **Featuring the origin of Wreckage!**
UltraForce wants Wreckage to join the club, but what price will they pay for having a loose cannon on the team?
ON SALE DEC. 26 ~~2.99~~ \$1.50

GOON...

... ABOARD THE
CANARY PATROL
VESSEL

'STRATOR
UMBRIDGE,
REPORTING,
TRIBUNE.

WE
ENCOUNTERED
A SMALL GATHERING
OF DISSIDENTS--
ISLE KIN
TYPES.

NOTHING
TOO RADICAL,
EXCEPT FOR
A PAIR OF --

FORGET
ABOUT THAT,
UMBRIDGE.

YOU
HAVE BEEN
REASSIGNED.

I
WANT
YOU AT THE TEMPLE
OF CONTROL --

-- AND
I WANT YOU
HERE QUICKLY. AM I
BEING SUFFICIENTLY
CLEAR?

ABUNDANTLY.

BUT,
SIR, WHAT
DO YOU WISH
DONE WITH THE
PAIR OF
DISSIDENTS?

YOU
KNOW THE
OPTIONS OPEN
TO YOU,
UMBRIDGE.

INCARCERATE.
INCINERATE.
OBLITERATE

PICK
ONE AND BE
DONE WITH
IT.

UNDERSTOOD,
TRIBUNE
HAIGHT.

MEANWHILE... IN A
HOLDING CELL,
SEVERAL DECKS BELOW.

I
KNOW
THE STRAIN, BUT
WITH THE GUARDS
UPSIDE, WE NEED
TO PSI-
LINK.

I
MEAN,
I'VE WOUND
UP IN WORSE
SITUATIONS
WITH
YOU --

-- WELL,
NOT MUCH
WORSE --

-- BUT
YOU REALLY
WENT AFTER IT
TONIGHT.

I JUST
HATE SEEING
THOSE SHEEP
FOLLOWING SOME
DREAM... THAT
DOESN'T HELP
ANYBODY.

I'M
NOT
TALKING
ABOUT YOUR
POLITICS,
NATE.

FROM
DAY ONE,
YOU'VE SPAT ON
APOCALYPSE LIKE
YOU TOOK HIM DOWN
YOURSELF...
PERSONALLY.

THE
TRUTH?

NO,
LIE TO
ME.

SHE...
REMINDS
ME OF SOMEONE
I KNEW LONG
AGO...

I'M
ASKING
WHY SEEING
THE HOLOGRAM
OF MOTHER ASKANI
SET YOU OFF
LIKE IT
DID.

FREE X-MEN LIMITED EDITION COMIC

*With this coupon & the proof of purchase from any Marvel Ultraverse #1 or #2 comic!

PHOENIX RESURRECTION #0

Featuring the return of the deadly Phoenix, the **X-Men: Phoenix Genesis** story will be hot!

The real question is which character will become the next Dark Phoenix?

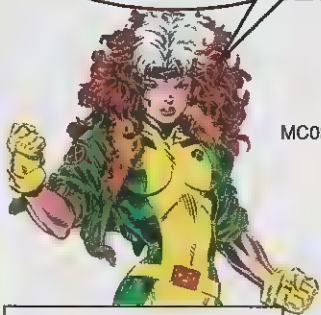
For a limited time only, you can get a **FREE** limited edition **Phoenix Resurrection #0** with this coupon & the proof of purchase from any Marvel Ultraverse #1 or #2 comic.

HURRY! Offer expires Monday, Feb. 5th.
Strict limit of 1 coupon per envelope!



Here's a list of the eligible Marvel Ultraverse titles!

The power of the Phoenix almost destroyed the universe once. Now the entity returns!



Ultraverse Titles

Exiles 1,2	Mantra 1,2
Prime 1,2	Rune 1,2
Night Man 1,2	Siren 1,2
Ultraforce 1,2	

*Any of these titles are eligible!

Yes, you may photocopy this coupon!

1 EXMPR **X-Men: Phoenix Resurrection #0** (limited edition comic) = **FREE**

Get one free limited comic with the proof of purchase from any one Marvel Ultraverse #1 or #2 comic. (You can photocopy the cover or cut & send the UPC bar code from the cover.) Note: Strict limit of one coupon per envelope!

MC03MC

Shipping & Handling (\$3 for U.S. residents, \$5 for foreign.) =
Total =

Name: _____ Date of Birth: _____ Sex (M/F): _____

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Send orders to: American Entertainment • PO Box 470 • Gainesville, VA 22065-0470

Offer expires 2/5/96 Orders begin shipping on 12/18/95. Allow 4-6 weeks for delivery!

IS...
IS THERE
SOME WAY I
CAN BE OF
SERVICE TO
YOU?

...NOVITIATE
ALIYA
HAD NOT
LISTENED...

NEW CANAAN

AS IMPRESSIVE AS THE
NEW CANAANITE'S
TRANSPORT VEHICLES
ARE, THEY ARE DWARFED
BY THE MASSIVE DRY
DOCKING BAYS.

YOU ARE ENTERING
A WEAPON-FREEZONE--
ALL INTERNEES ARE TO
BE SEARCHED BEFORE
DISEMBARKING.

HOW
DID SHE
PUT IT?

"THE
ADMINISTRATION
ENCOURAGES FREE
THINKING AND WOULD
LIKE TO HEAR
MORE."

I
DON'T
GET THE SENSE
WE'RE BEING
INVITED IN
FOR A FEW
DRINKS.

IF... IT
WEREN'T FOR
THESE ENERGY
SHACKLES.

... I'D
HAVE US
OUT IN...

WNGGON

I'M
SORRY,
TETHERBLOOD.
THIS IS ANOTHER
FINE MESS
I'VE--

WHAT IS...
IS...

WHO
THE--?



WHAT
USE DOES ONE
HAVE FOR A
WORD SUCH AS
"SORRY"?

LISTEN,
SIRRAH, WE'D
BOTH LOVE TO
STAND HERE
AND ARGUE
PHILOSOPHY --

-- BUT
RIGHT NOW,
WHAT MY FRIEND
NEEDS IS A
PHYSICIAN.

SO,
WHY DON'T
YOU JUST
WADDLE ON
OUT OF
HERE --

ONCE THE
SITUATION HAS
PRESENTED ITSELF,
IT IS THE SITUATION
WHICH MUST BE
ADDRESSED --

-- NOT THE
CIRCUMSTANCE
UNDER WHICH IT
WAS ARRIVED
AT.

A
PHYSICIAN,
SUCH AS YOU
REFER TO, WOULD
BE OF LITTLE
HELP TO
HIM NOW.

ARRGH!

HIS
CONDITION
IS WORSE THAN
EVEN I HAD
EXPECTED.

EXPECTED..?

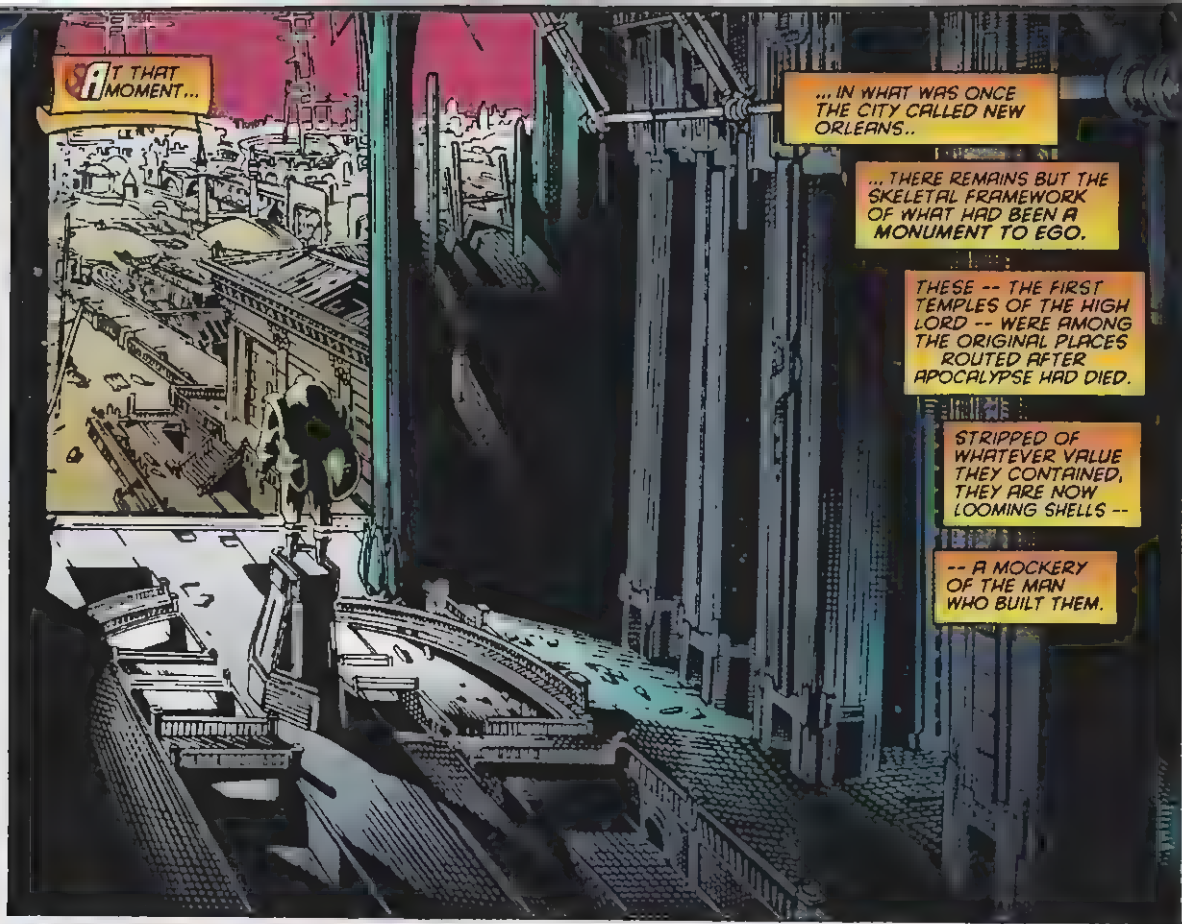
YOU
GOT A
NAME?

I DID.

I AM
KNOWN ONLY AS
"BLAQUESMITH".

ALL RIGHT
BLAQUESMITH,
SINCE YOU SEEM
TO KNOW SO
MUCH ABOUT
MY BEST
FRIEND --

-- CAN
YOU HELP
HIM?!



AT THAT
MOMENT...

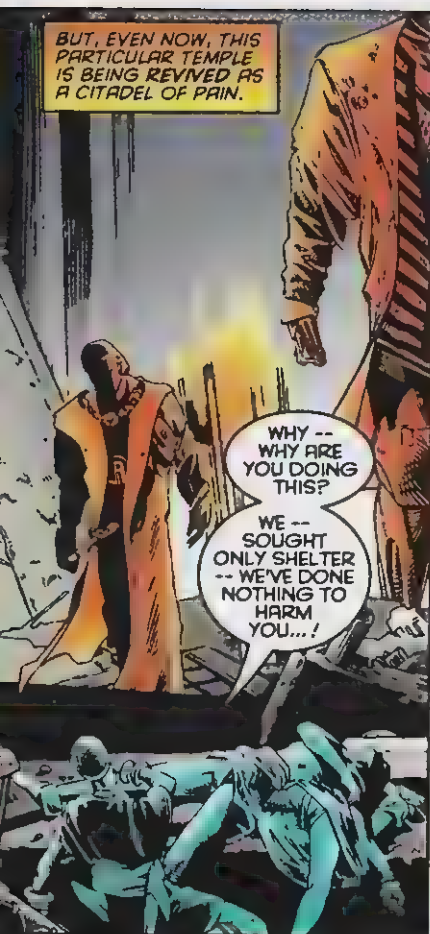
...IN WHAT WAS ONCE
THE CITY CALLED NEW
ORLEANS...

...THERE REMAINS BUT THE
SKELETAL FRAMEWORK
OF WHAT HAD BEEN A
MONUMENT TO EGO.

THESE -- THE FIRST
TEMPLES OF THE HIGH
LORD -- WERE AMONG
THE ORIGINAL PLACES
ROUTED AFTER
APOCALYPSE HAD DIED.

STRIPPED OF
WHATEVER VALUE
THEY CONTAINED,
THEY ARE NOW
LOOMING SHELLS --

-- A MOCKERY
OF THE MAN
WHO BUILT THEM.



BUT, EVEN NOW, THIS
PARTICULAR TEMPLE
IS BEING REVYED AS
A CITADEL OF PAIN.

WHY --
WHY ARE
YOU DOING
THIS?

WE --
SOUGHT
ONLY SHELTER
-- WE'VE DONE
NOTHING TO
HARM
YOU...!



TRUE.

UNFORTUNATELY,
I DON'T SEE IT THAT
WAY.

YOU
EXIST, YET
YOU ARE
WEAK.

AND
I HAVE GONE
TOO LONG
WITHOUT BATHING
MYSELF IN
ANOTHER'S
AGONY.



STRYFE!

THAT IS
ENOUGH!

WHEN APOCALYPSE
FELL, HIS DEATH NOT
ONLY BROUGHT DOWN
A CIVILIZATION --

-- IN SMALLER
TERMS, IT CAPSIZED
THE LIVES OF HIS
TWO MOST LOYAL
SUBJECTS:

STRYFE -- THE
GENETICALLY
CLONED
DUPLICATE OF
DAYSPRING.

THE HIGH LORD CODDLED
HIM, NOT OUT OF LOVE,
BUT WITH THE INTENTION
OF USING HIS BODY AS A
VESSEL FOR HIS OWN
AGED FORM.

AND CH'VAYRE, THE "TRUSTED"
SERVANT WHO SECRETLY
BETRAYED APOCALYPSE IN THE
HOPES OF GIVING STRYFE
ANOTHER CHANCE AT LIFE.

INSTEAD, CH'VAYRE
HAS SHACKLED
HIMSELF TO THE
PRODIGY OF A
MADMAN.

A WEIGHT THAT
HAS TAKEN A
MIGHTY TOLL
THROUGH THE
YEARS...

YOU
PRESUME
TOO MUCH IN
TOUCHING
ME, OLD
MAN...

... OR
HAVE YOU
FORGOTTEN,
LIKE THE REST
OF THE CHATTEL
ON THIS
PLANET...

... THAT I AM
THE SOLE HEIR
TO THE THRONE OF
APOCALYPSE?!

IS IT
NOT DIFFICULT
FOR A KING TO
RULE...

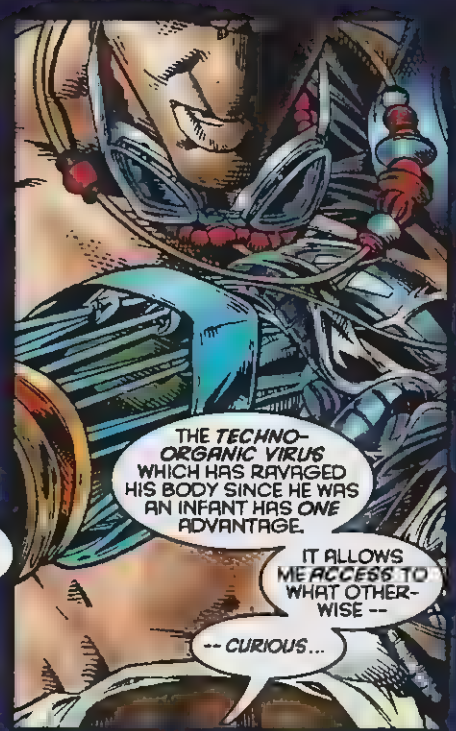
... WITHOUT A
KINGDOM?

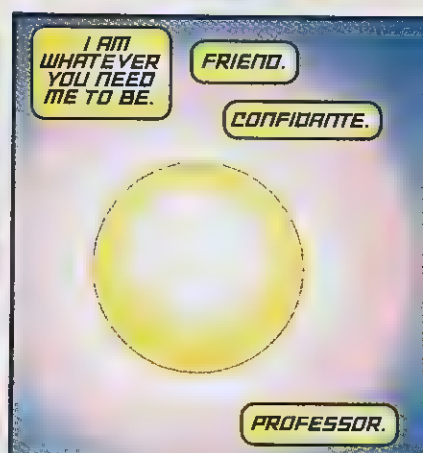
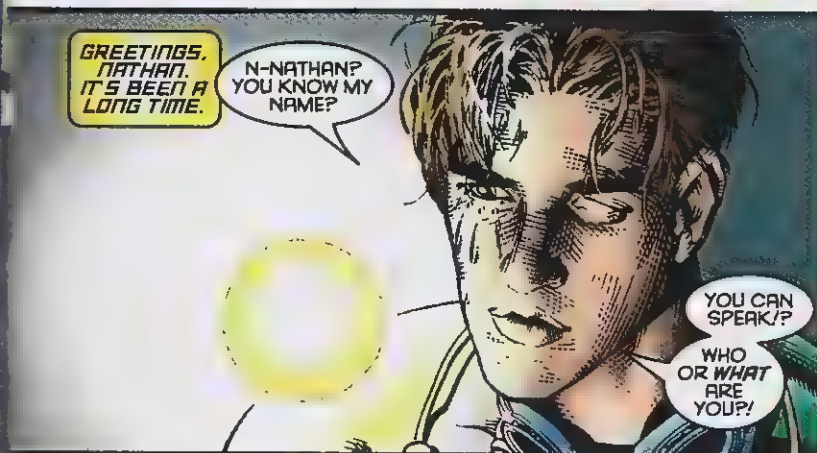
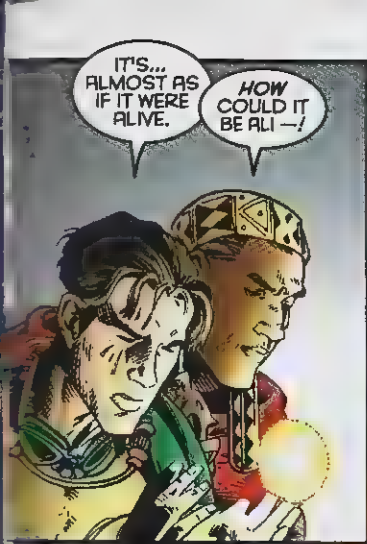
ISN'T
THAT THE
REASON FOR
OUR BEING
HERE?

TO
REBUILD MY
KINGDOM?

YES,
STRYFE, THAT
IS WHY WE ARE
HERE.

AND
MAY GOD
FORGIVE
ME.





HIGH ABOVE
THE CITY...
ANOTHER WRINKLE
IN THE FABRIC OF
REALITY UNFOLDS...

LOOK
OUT ON
THE HORIZON,
UMBRIDGE, AT ALL
WE'VE BEEN ABLE
TO ACCOMPLISH
SINCE THE FALL
OF THE HIGH
LORD.

FOR ALL
HIS POSTURING
ABOUT "THE
SURVIVAL OF THE
FITTEST"...

... TELL ME,
WHERE IS HE
NOW
TO ENJOY HIS
LONG SOUGHT
"VICTORY"?

SOON
THE CLAN
CANANITE
WILL BE MORE
POWERFUL THAN
EVEN HE EVER
DREAMED!

'STRATOR UMBRIDGE'S
SILENCE IS A SIGN...

... FOR AS MUCH
AS SHE YEARNS
TO ASCEND THE
CANANITE
HEIRARCHY --

-- SURELY TRIBUNE
HAIGHT KNOWS THAT
SPEAKING THIS WAY
OF EN SABAH NUR IS
TANTAMOUNT
TO BLASPHEMY.



EVER ONE
TO THINK, BEFORE
YOU SPEAK, eh,
UMBRIDGE?

NO
WONDER
YOU'VE GONE
SO FAR IN SUCH
A SHORT
TIME.

I TAKE
THAT AS A
COMPLIMENT,
TRIBUNES.

AS IT WAS
INTENDED.

TELL ME,
'STRATOR, WHAT
DO YOU KNOW
ABOUT THE CLAN
ASKANIP?



ONLY WHAT
EVERY OTHER
CHILD LEARNS
GROWING
UP.

THE
STUFF OF
FAIRY TALES
MY PARENTS
READ TO ME
BEFORE
BED.

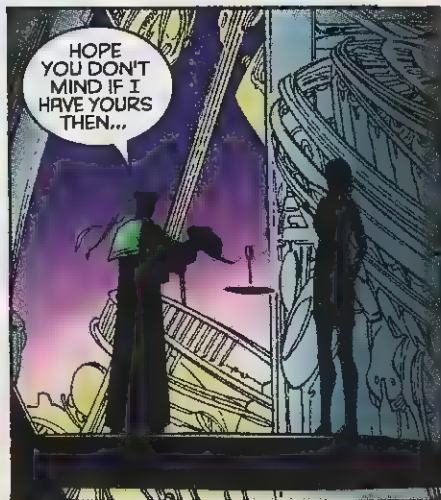
THEY
BELIEVED IN
THEM STILL...
TO ME THEY WERE
THE STUFF OF
HISTORY.



DRINK?

NOT
WHILE ON
DUTY,
SIR.

DEVOTION
TO DUTY.
ADMIRABLE.



HOPE
YOU DON'T
MIND IF I
HAVE YOURS
THEN...

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X-Men

- ☐ GEN Generation X
- ☐ XME The Uncanny X-Men
- ☐ WOL Wolverine
- ☐ MEN X-Men
- ☐ CAB Cable
- ☐ EXC Excalibur
- ☐ FAC X-Factor
- ☐ XFO X-Force
- ☐ MAN X-Man

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- ☐ CTS Conan The Savage

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- ☐ WHI What If...

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- ☐ AVE Avengers
- ☐ CAM Captain America
- ☐ FAN Fantastic Four
- ☐ IRM Iron Man
- ☐ SIL Silver Surfer
- ☐ THR Thor

The Edge

- ☐ DDV Daredevil
- ☐ INC The Incredible Hulk
- ☐ DOC Doctor Strange
- ☐ GHR Ghost Rider
- ☐ PNS Punisher

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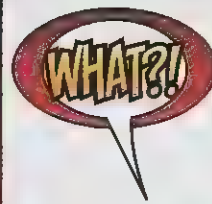
SATISFACTION GUARANTEED!



WHAT
IF I WERE
TO TELL YOU
THAT THE *ASKANI*
STILL EXISTED,
'STRATOR?

AND
THAT THEY
ARE *ALL* THAT
STAND BETWEEN
THE CLAN
CANAANITE --

--AND
THE THRONE
OF OUR DEAR
DEPARTED
APOCALYPSE.



SURELY,
YOU ARE
NOT IMPLYING
THAT THIS... *STUFF*
OF *MYTHS*... POSES
ANY *ACTUAL*
THREAT!



AH,
SO ONE
CAN GET A
RISE OUT
OF YOU.
GOOD.

I'VE FOUND
THAT A SOLDIER
WITH *ICE* IN HIS
VEINS IS OF LITTLE
VALUE *UNDER*
FIRE.

WHAT I AM
TELLING YOU
IS KNOWN TO
BUT A FEW.

IT WAS
LONG BELIEVED
THAT THE LAST
OF THE CLAN *ASKANI*
WERE *ELIMINATED* IN
THE CLOISTER
SLAUGHTER, WHEN
THE HATED
MOTHER *ASKANI*
FINALLY
FELL.®

SEE *CYCLOPS & PHOENIX* #1
--Historical Bob



APPARENTLY,
ONE OR TWO
STRAYS
SURVIVED --

-- AND
HAVE *RESUMED*
TEACHING THEIR
WAYS TO
OTHERS.



I NEED
YOU, 'STRATOR, TO
STOP THAT FROM
HAPPENING.

CERTAINLY.
BUT...
HOW?

EURASIA?

THEY
BARELY HAVE
RUNNING WATER,
MUCH LESS A
GOVERNMENT WE
COULD--

-- AS FAR
AS THIS MISSION
GOES, UMBRIDGE,
THE ONLY GOVERNMENT
YOU NEED TO CONCERN
YOURSELF WITH IS
OURS.

THIS
REQUIRES
A CERTAIN...
SUBTLETY.

ARE
YOU UP
TO THE
TASK?

YOU
NEEDN'T
ASK,
SIR.

OUTSTANDING.

ONE
LAST
THING.

WE HAVE...
REPORTS...
OF A YOUNG
MAN.

SOMEONE
THIS "SISTERHOOD"
HAS A HIGH REGARD
FOR.

THEIR...
"MESSIAH" --
TO PICK A
WORD.

IF YOU
SHOULD
ENCOUNTER
THE LAD --

-- KILL
HIM.

AS
SO ORDERED.
MAY I BE
DISMISSED?

"G"
JOURNEY".

AS THEY
USED TO
SAY!

BY THE HIGH
LORD, I NEARLY
SHOWED HIM
MY HAND.

I HAVE
LITTLE BELIEF IN
FATE; EVEN LESS IN
COINCIDENCE.

BUT
IF THAT YOUNG
DISSIDENT WE
ARRESTED TONIGHT
TURNS OUT TO BE WHO
I NOW SUSPECT
HE IS...

... HAIGHT
MIGHT BE
REPORTING TO
ME NEXT
TIME...

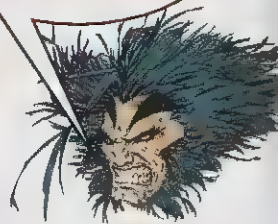
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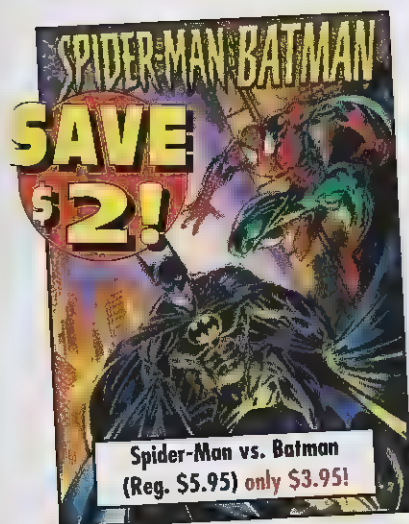
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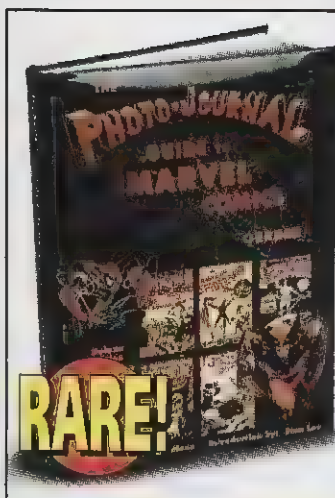
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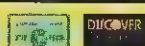


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IN THE OPEN AIR
ENTRANCE TO THE
DOCKING BAY...

... THE SITUATION
HAS PROGRESSED
FROM BAD TO UGLY...

WE CAN SAVE
THE ADMINISTRATION
THE COST OF PROCESSING
THESE THREE --

-- BY
ERASING
THEM NOW,
INSTEAD.

BLAQUESMITH...
NOW THAT YOU'RE
BACK WITH
US --

-- YOU
DON'T HAPPEN
TO HAVE ANY OTHER
TRICKS UP YOUR
SLEEVE?

TRICKS?
NO.

SOLUTIONS.
YES.

WITH BUT A PSIONIC
THOUGHT, THE ENERGY
SHACKLES FALL ASIDE.

IT WILL NOT BE
THE LAST TIME
DAYSPRING IS
SURPRISED BY
BLAQUESMITH'S
POWER.

THE POWER
WHICH IS OF
THE ASKANI!

NOW, GO,
DAYSPRING.

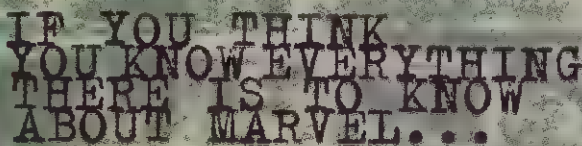
GO?
I CAN HANDLE
THESE GUARDS
AND --

NO!
YOUR DESTINY
LIES ELSE-
WHERE.

WAIT! I DON'T
UNDERST --

GO!

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THE PRISONERS ARE UNSHACKLED!

FIRE!



APPARENTLY, AT THE COST OF HIS LIFE!

BUTCHERS!

NATE, BLAQUESMITH BOUGHT US AN EXIT --

AS THEIR REPORTS WOULD LATER REFLECT, IT MATTERED LITTLE WHERE THE CANANITE GUARDS ACTUALLY AIMED...

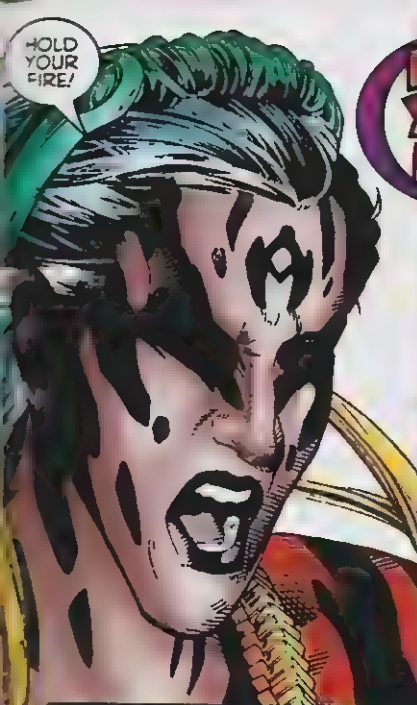
...THE ROBED FIGURE ACTED AS A SHIELD.



-- AND LIKE IT OR NOT --



-- WE ARE TAKING IT!



HOLD YOUR FIRE!

HOLD YOUR FIRE!



'STRATOR, THE PRISONERS WERE ESCAPING --'

I AM NOT INTERESTED IN YOUR EXCUSES --

-- I WANT THEM FOUND!

NO DISRESPECT, SIR, BUT AFTER A FALL FROM THIS HEIGHT --

-- THERE WILL BE LITTLE MORE THAN INK STAINS FOR US TO --



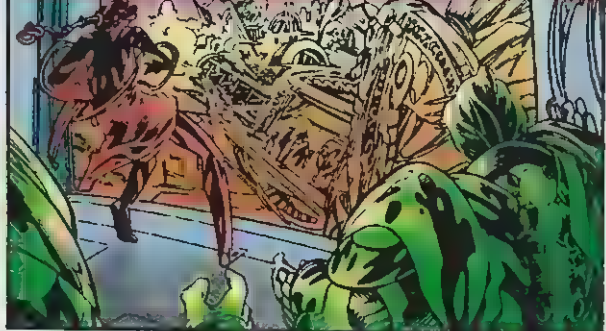
WOULD YOU BET YOUR VERY LIFE ON THAT?



HAVE THE TOWER DOCK ALL PODS.

NO ONE GETS IN OR OUT, UNLESS --

THAKA
OOOON



WARNING!
UNAUTHORIZED
LAUNCH OF
ESCAPE POD
UNIT NINE.

THAT POD
BROKE FREE
OF A SECURED
MOORING.

AND NOW
ACCELERATES AT
NEARLY TEN TIMES
THE VELOCITY IT IS
RATED FOR.

WHOEVER
YOU ARE, YOUNG
MAN --

-- YOU HAVE
JUST MADE MY
JOB ALL THE MORE
INTRIGUING...

INSIDE
THE POD.

WHOA!
DAYSPRING,
WHAT'RE YOU
DOING?!

IT'S
NOT ME,
IT'S THE
POD!

WELL,
MAKE IT
STOP!

STOP? I
THOUGHT
YOU WISHED
TO ESCAPE,
NATHAN.

THAT
VOICE, YOU'RE
THAT THING THAT
WAS INSIDE
OF ME.

CORRECT.
I HAVE
TAKEN THE
LIBERTY OF
OVERRIDEING
THIS UNIT'S
CONTROL
CENTER.

BEFORE, WHEN
YOU SAID YOU
COULD BE MY...
"PROFESSOR".

MIND
IF I CALL
YOU
THAT?

YOU
ALWAYS
HAVE,
NATHAN.

NOT TO
BRING UP A SORE
SUBJECT --

-- BUT
DOES ANYBODY
KNOW WHERE
WE'RE HEADED?

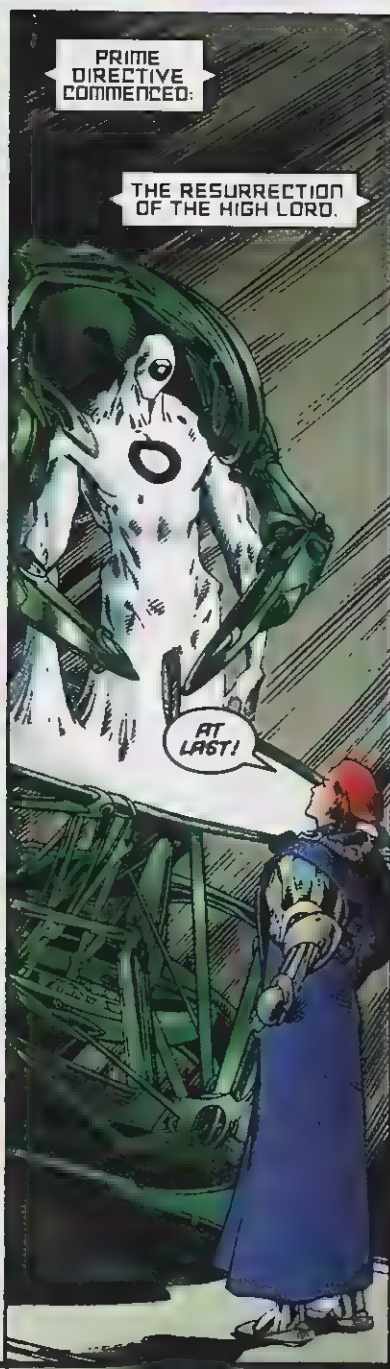
BEFORE
HE DIED,
BLAQUESMITH
PUT A TELEPATHIC
SUGGESTION IN MY
HEAD --

-- A SORT
OF LIFESAVER,
I THINK.

SO,
UNLESS
EITHER OF
YOU SAY
OTHER-
WISE --

-- WE'RE
GOING IN
SEARCH OF

THE LAST
ASKANI!



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